

Kew July 26/02

My dear Gray

Your letter and the seed of *Odon-*
stomum have come at the right time and seem
to me to confirm my views that the genus belongs
to *Conantheraceae* which I regard as a tribe rather
of *Hemodoraceae* than of *Liliaceae*. In each of the
tribes of *Hemodoraceae* there are (as in *Bromeliaceae*)
genera with the ovary inferior, half-inferior or free
in all the embryo ^{and in Liliaceae etc.} is not to entirely enclosed in the
albumen but is either marginal or more or less enclosed
with the thick radicular end more or less distinctly
protruded, and in making a
vertical section of one of the seed
you send I find to like this much
as I have never seen in hundred
of seeds of *Liliaceae* that I have dissected

I have not done the *Peristreae* yet but now on
receiving your letter I lost into the seed of *Catilaea*
Fremontii or *Eryngium glaucum* which
I find like this

The *Orchidaceae* are now all printed off except
the last sheet *Pitcairnaceae* and *Bromeliaceae* are
all in type *Hemodoraceae* will be in this week,
gesneriaceae and *Aphyllaceae* are in the printer's
hand.

about 150 or 160 genera of Liliaceae are done
but there are still some 20 or 30 (easy) ones to
examine and I cannot yet quite make up
my mind as to grouping them - and the
davis or Composite Genera is very difficult
to draw up.

In the printed off portion there will
be two or three corrigenda as to geographical
distribution.

Thanks for the faded flowers of
Hesperantha - I cannot consider them as
spirally twisted the twist is very slight and
rare and almost accidental.

I made a great mistake in H. Australis
in placing H. paniculata in the spirally-twisted
genera - In first copying out my rough
notes the word now was accidentally
omitted and the error was not detected
until after publication.

(Yours very sincerely)

George Bentham

I have been staying the last fortnight
at Horley where workmen are in my

house & which botanise on Tuesday - whilst
here I have been off to work at least
eight hours a day in the herbarium